

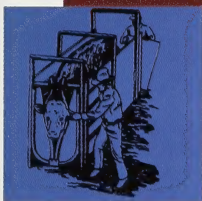


**Alberta
Cattle
Commission**

GRASS routes

The Alberta Cattle Producer Monthly Update

August 1996



Delegates Approve New Plan for ACC

Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) delegates approved **changes to the structure of the organization** at the semi annual meeting in June. Changes include a reduction in delegate numbers as well as the introduction of industry delegates from other cattle organizations. ACC Chairman Larry Helland of Lomond predicts "a much stronger organization - we will now have a new downsized, streamlined and broad-based organization." Watch for more information about the restructuring in the fall annual report and at the fall producer meetings.

Petroleum/Cattle Study Released

The Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) is **pleased to release the report called *Cattle and the Oil and Gas Industry in Alberta: A Literature Review with Recommendations for Environmental Management***.

The report **examines chemicals used or produced by the oil and gas industry in the province, their movement in air, water and soil - and their potential effect on cattle**. Furthermore, the report documents case studies where substances released by the oil and gas industry in Alberta had the potential to affect livestock, and analyzes the consequences to cattle from exposure.

"We received a useful report for cattle producers that describes the Alberta situation. We are carefully **reviewing the report to understand the issues it raises and initiate a cooperative process with the oil and gas industry to address any problems or knowledge gaps**," says ACC General Manager Gary Sargent.

In many areas the report concludes further study is required to evaluate the risk oilfield contaminants pose to cattle in Alberta.

The report does indicate that concentrated contaminants such as oil and saltwater spills pose a known risk to cattle.

Flaring is also identified in the report as one of the critical areas needing further investigation. The report states that inefficient flares are the single largest source of volatile contaminants that may affect cattle.

Another recommendation focuses on expanding groundwater monitoring in Alberta to cover situations where sensitive geological conditions combined with oil and gas industry development could threaten drinking water supplies.

The report was initiated in the fall of 1992 at the request of cattle producers concerned about the potential effects of the petroleum industry on agricultural production. It was conducted by approximately 20 scientists and technicians from the Alberta Environmental Centre and several consulting firms.

The executive summary is available free of charge. Copies of the full report can be ordered from the ACC at cost for \$15 per copy (\$20 for out of province orders).

New Water Act OK

The Alberta Cattle Commission reviewed Bill 41 (the new water act) and is satisfied **the government has addressed most of our concerns with the original draft.**

In particular, the government more **clearly defined the basic rights producers have to the water historically used in their operations.** The act will allow producers to protect up to six acre feet per operation by registering the amount they have historically used for farm operations. Producers requiring amounts in excess of the basic right will need to license their additional needs to protect them. **The terms and conditions of existing licences will be honored** including the permanent nature of the licence.

We believe Bill 41 has achieved **a reasonable balance between the rights of traditional users and the need to place a greater emphasis on water conservation.** Agriculture is the largest water user in the province and our future depends on having secure access to water at a reasonable cost.

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